

**ABSTRACT**

The present invention relates to mobile data communications in general, and more specifically, the present invention describes a route optimization technique requiring no awareness of the Mobile IP protocol by a Correspondent Node when

5 forwarding traffic using the shortest path between a Mobile Node and the Correspondent Node in a visiting domain. The invention describes the management of route entries, network address translations and firewall filters in order to provide a secure, yet, flexible deployment of Mobile IP route optimization. Specific considerations are described for the case of separate Foreign Agent and co-located

10 care-of address respectively.